

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:

a housing including discrete proximal and distal housing components configured and dimensioned for releasable connection;

a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument;

a sealing member having proximal and distal faces disposed within the housing, the sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis of the cannula member and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having an hourglass shape defining an open aperture in an initial condition thereof for the receipt of the surgical instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the aperture of the sealing member to expand to an expanded condition thereof and resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith; and

a seal clamp configured and dimensioned to secure an outer periphery of the sealing member within the housing, the seal clamp including at least one post extending therefrom along the longitudinal axis, the at least one post being configured and dimensioned to be received within at least one corresponding opening formed in the distal housing component.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the fabric of the sealing member comprises an elastic material and is arranged to expand upon engaging the instrument.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a resilient material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 7 wherein the fabric is compressed into the resilient material.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 8 wherein the resilient material is disposed within interstices defined by the fabric such that the resilient material is at least partially formed with the fabric in an integral manner.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a coating to reduce friction between the seal member and the at least one surgical instrument.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 further comprising a zero seal in the housing configured and dimensioned to substantially inhibit escape of insufflation gases absent the instrument.

Claims 14-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 11, wherein the coating comprises a hydrocyclosiloxane membrane prepared by a plasma polymerization process.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the sealing member is non inflatable.

Claims 21-31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the sealing member includes an annular segment ~~a projection~~ extending inwardly into the aperture defined by the hourglass shape of the sealing member, the annular segment ~~projection~~ being configured and dimensioned to engage the surgical instrument to enhance the seal formed therewith upon insertion.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:

a housing;

a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument; and

a sealing member having proximal and distal faces disposed within the housing, the sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis of the cannula member and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having a general hourglass shaped segment, and an annular segment projecting radially inwardly from the hourglass segment, the annular segment defining an open aperture in an initial condition thereof for the receipt of the surgical instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the aperture to expand to an expanded condition thereof whereby at least the annular segment resiliently contacts the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 33, further including a seal clamp configured and dimensioned to secure an outer periphery of the sealing member within the housing.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 33 wherein the sealing member is dimensioned such that during insertion of the instrument the aperture expands to the expanded condition whereby surfaces of the hourglass segment adjacent the annular segment resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form the substantial seal therewith.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 33 wherein the annular segment is disposed adjacent a ~~the~~ longitudinal midpoint of the sealing member.

Claim 37 (new): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the at least one post includes a plurality of posts, and the at least one opening formed in the housing includes a plurality of openings.

Claim 38 (new): The assembly of claim 33, wherein the hourglass shaped segment defines a first internal transverse dimension, and the annular segment defines a second internal transverse dimension, the second internal transverse dimension smaller than the first internal transverse dimension.

Claim 39 (new): The assembly of claim 34, wherein the seal clamp includes at least one post extending therefrom configured and dimensioned to engage at least one corresponding opening formed in the housing.

Claim 40 (new): The assembly of claim 39, wherein the housing includes discrete proximal and distal housing components configured and dimensioned for releasable connection, the at least one opening being formed in the distal housing component.

Claim 41 (new): The assembly of claim 39, wherein the seal clamp includes a plurality of posts extending therefrom, and the housing includes a plurality of corresponding openings for reception of respective posts.